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#37

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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March 26, 1974

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Italy Assailed for Position on Trieste

Radio Prague commented on March 22 that Yugoslav-Italian relations have recently become tense because of the "unexpected and quite unjustified" Italian claim to Yugoslav territory in the Trieste area. The commentary further notes that a forerunner of the Italian move was a "malicious anti-Yugoslav campaign" conducted by some Italian media. In particular, Corriere della Sera printed "monstrous fabrications about alleged preparations of the Warsaw treaty states to invade northern Yugoslavia." The intent was to cause a change in Belgrade's foreign policy. The broadcast then notes that "Italy's ruling circles" are supporting forces that do not want an easing of tensions.

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POLAND

Polish Employees of US Consulate Arrested for Samizdat Activities

Five local employees of the US Consulate in Poznan were arrested on March 22 and two remain in jail because they possessed typewritten copies of a satirical poem on price increases in Poland. The poem apparently ends with a play on words suggesting that if prices continue to rise, the Gierek regime could end in the flames of local party headquarters as Gomulka's did.

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Warsaw's reaction primarily indicates the regime's heightened sensitivity to popular criticism of its wage and price policy and is not a calculated incident directed against the consulate.

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